

Overview

This activity is designed to help you think about your own development and devise a plan for improving your practice as you integrate what you've learned and experienced in this course into your letter knowledge instruction.

Objectives

- To reassess your letter knowledge practice.
- To set future short- and long-term goals for your practice.
- To reflect on course content.

Materials

- “Building the Foundation” activity sheet completed in Section 3 of this course
- “Setting Goals” activity sheet, below

Instructions

1. Reread the “Building the Foundation” self-assessment that you completed in Section 3 of this course.
2. Update your self-assessment using the criteria listed below.
 - Indicate the rating that you gave yourself at the beginning of the course.
 - Indicate your current rating. For each consideration, give yourself a numerical rating from 1-5: 1 = you have room for improvement; 5 = you have accomplished all you set out to accomplish.
 - Note any strategies you might use to improve your rating in the future.
3. Respond to the questions following the self-assessment regarding centers, letter knowledge assessments, and the relation of letter knowledge to other aspects of literacy instruction.

Name _____
 Date _____

Setting Goals

Part I – Revisit Your Self-Assessment

Considerations	Rating at Beginning of Course	Current Rating	Strategies to Improve Future Rating
I have created a print-rich classroom by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making sure there are plenty of alphabet and name books close at hand. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labeling tools, props, and toys that are used frequently. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decorating the walls with signs, posters, and banners that feature print. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing plenty of hands-on alphabet activities. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posting a Letter Wall. 			

Considerations	Rating at Beginning of Course	Current Rating	Strategies to Improve Future Rating
I have made best use of the Letter Wall by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiarizing children with the concept of alphabet before introducing the Letter Wall. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading the children in alphabet and name book read alouds. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Posting it near the circle area. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making sure the children can see it clearly. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making sure the children can reach it easily. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having children add their names to it. 			

Part III – Letter Knowledge Assessment

1. Using assessment as the beginning and endpoint of the teaching cycle keeps instruction dynamic and fresh. The teacher assesses what children have learned, reflects on what was learned from the assessment, plans accordingly, implement the plans, and then assesses again...a complete cycle!

Describe what you learned about your children's learning and your own teaching from the assessments you implemented in your classroom.

2. How did children respond to your attempts to tailor letter knowledge play to their abilities? How might you plan your letter knowledge instruction based on assessment information in the future?